

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-6, 11-15, 18, 22-27, 29-33, 44, and 46-49 are presently pending. Claims 33-43 and 45 have been canceled in this amendment. Claims 1-6, 11-15, 18, 22-27, 29-31, and 49 are pending and have been allowed for which the Examiner is thanked. Claim 32 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of Claim 33, an objected to claim. Also, Claim 44 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of Claim 45, an objected to claim. These amendments obviate the remaining rejections and place the application in condition for allowance.

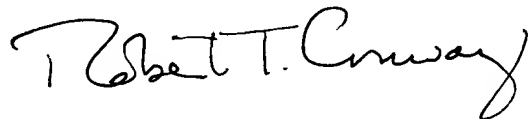
The specification has been amended to identified the corresponding issued U.S. patent to U.S. Application No. 08/883,329, which is incorporated into the application herein by reference. The issued patent is U.S. Patent 6,258,443. No new matter has been added.

**CONCLUSION**

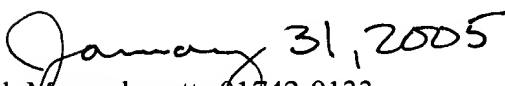
In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

HAMILTON, BROOK, SMITH &  
REYNOLDS, P.C.



Robert T. Conway  
Registration No. 33,859  
Telephone: (978) 341-0036  
Facsimile: (978) 341-0136

Dated:   
Concord, Massachusetts 01742-9133